



**January, 2007**

**Volume 3, Number 1**

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## FROM THE EDITOR...



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Hello again club members!

As we turn to greet yet another new year, it is sometimes good to reflect on the past. The last year at the RCT has been a good one for the club, with new members joining all the time. Club membership remains fairly steady in the high two hundreds. Lets all promise to try to stay involved in club activities such as 'DK at the beach, Field Day and the W7DK hamfest.

It has also been a bit of an interesting year with all the latest changes that have occurred to restructure both our license's and our bands. We hope that everyone will be able to adjust to the new regime without too many problems.

Speaking of new things, we are going to see some new officers taking office starting in January 2007. We have a new president, Randy AD7FF, and a couple of new board members, Bob KE7DGQ and Al W7AML. Lets give them all the help that they will need as they settle into their new positions.

For those of you who are actually reading this, you might have noticed yet another change to the "Loggers Bark" with the assistance of Rich Patrick KR7W, we are trying yet another format.

This format looks good in print and hopefully it will give the "Bark" a clean new look that I think will make us look very professional.

Here's to yet another good year at the Radio Club of Tacoma!

Get your resolutions ready friends!

73  
Gary.



The Radio Club of Tacoma is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League. RCT is considered an ARRL Special Services Club.

Visit [www.w7dk.org](http://www.w7dk.org) for info.

## General Meeting Minutes 13 December, 2006

The 13 December 2006 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Mick Pier-KK7QS called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President:	Mick Pier -- KK7QS
Vice President:	Jill Palmer -- K7JIL
Secretary:	Larry Watson - -KD4VOM
Treasurer:	Pat Wingerter - -KD7TRC
Board Member:	Frank Palmer-- AC7JY
Board Member	Roddney Saucedo -- WV7O
Board Member	Peter Baker -- AD7EU
Board Member	Nick Winter -- K7MO

*Attendance count was 42 and the sign in roster is attached to the original copy of the minutes.*

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Was led by President Mick Pier KK7QS

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Self Introductions were completed

### **ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:**

Jill K7JIL is sending a sympathy card to the family of Helen Asplund W7WRI, SK, but is unsure of the address. Nick K7MO remembered Helen as a wonderful woman who was a member for a long time. The Club enjoyed using the Asplund farm for Field Days and Nick recalled many of the challenges and joys of using the Asplund Farm. He also recalled we have a film of the Asplund farm Field Day and plans to present it at the January meeting.

Rick KE7EMW reported that Bud Mitze, K7BUD had been in the hospital for a few days and is home recovering.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

**Correspondence:** More W7DK/90 QSL cards are arriving, the normal utility bills and bank

statements; *The log of recent correspondence is attached to the original minutes.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Pat Wingerter -- KD7TRC made the Treasurer's report available for review.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Membership:**

Rick Rose KE7EMU reported our membership is currently 293, and reminded all that annual membership renewals are coming up and renewal packages will be in the mail shortly. They will include previously provided data along with some additional survey information to help us understand the capabilities and interests of the membership.

**Recent Board Actions:** Larry KD4VOM reported on recent RCT Board actions:

**Cartridges for Kids:** Steve Blacksten's recommendation that the Club establish an account for the recycling project to raise money for the club. At the last board meeting the board decided to continue the recycling/cartridges for kids collection, but to donate the items directly to the Bethel Junior High in part due to their past and present support of our annual Hamfest operations

**Planning Committee made Permanent:** The Board approved the permanent establishment of an RCT Planning Committee and its inclusion in the Standing Rules.

**Property Management:** Recognizing the need to properly account for its property, established a Property Inventory Team. The new President, Randy AD7FF will appoint members to the Team in January 2007. This effort to be followed by establishing a Standard Operating Procedure which will define Club policy and procedures for property accounting and compliance with Federal, State and Local laws and regulations.

**PROGRAM Field Day Review:** Nick Winter -- K7MO

Tonight's program consisted of a detailed statistical review of the club's 2006 and past Field Day operations as well as comparisons with other area clubs. Lively discussions on how to improve the Field Day experience and scoring followed. Worth W7WG regaled us with his Field Day adventure in a Nuremberg Germany campground. Bob Purdom, KE7DGQ announced that plans are underway, including

evaluating possible new locations, and hope to announce progress in late January.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**None**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Honorary Memberships:** Two new honorary memberships have been submitted to and approved by the board for membership action. A quorum of 23 being present, the President Mick Pier KK7QS proposed approval for honorary membership of Ken Keigley W7DM. By general membership vote, Ken Keigley was granted Honorary Membership in the Radio Club of Tacoma. Mick Pier KK7QS proposed approval for honorary membership of Dan Warner K7HIN for honorary membership. By general membership vote, Dan Warner was granted Honorary Membership in the Radio Club of Tacoma.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Annual Awards Banquet:** Rich Manson, N7ANF reviewed plans for the Annual Awards Banquet, being held this year at the Lakewood Community Center on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Rick KE7EMW asked for a PA system and Al Churchill AC7BU

Jill K7JIL reminded folks that all the tickets from the past year will be in the final door prize basket for the banquet. The grand prize is a bit smaller this year due to reduced income from the Hamfest proceeds.

**Straight Key Night:** Rich Patrick KR7W announced plans for the annual Straight Key night on 31 December at the Clubhouse. They will fire up the old rigs and run some straight key operations for those interested. A social potluck rounds out the activity which will begin around 3pm and run to around 9pm. Look for us on 40 meters around 7040/7045Mhz.

**1935/37 Call Book:** Worth and others have enjoyed finding Mac, Morell and other calls in an old call book donated by Steve Blacksten KD7UBE

**Samuel Morse Program:** It was noted that there was a recent excellent program on Sam Morse.

**Jill's Project Kudos:** Jill K7JIL took the opportunity to thank Joe Lester, Roddney Saucedo, Bob Purdom and others.

**Storm Predictions:** Bob Purdom KE7DGQ ad-

vised us that forecast weather may see winds up to 60-80mph... Be prepared check your antennas etc.

### **Discussion Topics:**

**T. R. McElroy Key and History:** Steve Blacksten KD7UBE has checked out a copy of the history of Mr. T. R. McElroy, and some have enjoyed reading it. If you are interested, contact Steve.

**Kudos to Mick Pier KK7QS:** Peter AD7EU Noting that it is a tough job, Thanked Mick for his years of service as President.

**W7DK/90 QSL Cards:** Harry Adams W7HSA asked about the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary QSL cards... Peter AD7EU responded that he is in the process of producing the cards and that those who have sent a self addressed stamped envelope will receive them. They can also be delivered directly at the Club meetings if Peter knows you prefer that method. Peter also announced that we have several hundred responses.

**Clubhouse Back Porch Light:** Larry KD4VOM reported that we had a wheelchair bound VE candidate at the last testing session and John Clarke AC7WW reminded us that the light was still out. Larry has purchased a dual flood replacement and needs someone to install it. John also reports that the front porch light is out and several fluorescent bulbs are out or blinking...

### **Tuning and Traffic:**

**Gary McFadden K7UPG:** reported on a Dentist friend from Olympia who is on tour with NOAA at McMurdo Sound. He is trying to coordinate a schedule for contacts within their 2 hour window of operations and will also do QRP.

**The Worth Report:** Worth W7WG reports that Harry W7HSA is doing very well on their CW Monday practice net at 7:30 on 28.150Mhz, on which includes Pete KK7QW. All are welcome to come join the practice. Hal W7EC and I made a 60 meter contact today on the channelized band.

**Door Prize:** Jill K7JIL solicited feedback on the way we are doing the door prizes and in particular what the membership would like to see in the way of prizes.

Icom Hat/Won by Bob KE7DGQ and given to Chuck AC7QN

Introduction to Morse Code CD/Won by Chuck AC7QN, given to Leonard KA7NWF

### A Ten Meter Vertical Antenna for All License Classes by Rich KR7W

The intent of this article is to show how I built an effective 10 meter vertical antenna. My goal is to reveal, in some kind of logical way, my thoughts, methodology, and how I came up with the final result in an easy to understand way. Hopefully, what I did will inspire others to create their own version of this type antenna... Especially since Technician class license holders will soon be able to operate SSB in the 10 meter band.

For quite some time now I've wanted to improve my receiving of signals on 10 meters when checking into the Sunday night net and the Monday night informal CW practice. I wanted to be able to choose between my existing horizontally polarized multi-band dipole and a vertically polarized antenna to receive (and transmit) the best signal. I do know that in VHF there is a difference of 20 to 30 decibels between a horizontally polarized antenna on one end... and vertical polarization on the other. So there is a chance of making a big difference in signal strength... depending on who I am having a QSO with.

I decided to erect a 10 meter **half wave vertical** on top of my garage where there are already some spare coax cables that route back to my ham shack.

I mentioned this project to some of the members at the Saturday gathering at the clubhouse. Someone asked me, "Why half wave? Why not a quarter wave arrangement? Quarter wave would not need to be so tall". My answer was that I did not like the radiation pattern of the quarter wave antenna... as a lot of the RF energy goes straight up... and with the half wave antenna, more of the RF energy is radiated toward the horizon. Also, an effective  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave vertical needs a lot of radials to make it efficient.

Most hams, including Ole Joe, will attest that the vertically polarized two meter J-Pole antenna is one of the best antennas around. Did

you know that this antenna just happens to be a half wavelength vertical antenna?

The J-pole consists of a half wave radiator (the part above the U shaped bottom of the J) ... with a quarter wave U shaped matching stub. (Diagram 1) The top and bottom ends of the half wave radiator are HI impedance (**Hi Z**) points. The top of the U shaped matching stub is also HI impedance. The Hi Z ends of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  wavelength radiator may not be the same impedance as the stub... but it is close enough to work well by adjusting the length of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  WL radiator. Somewhere along the bottom of the U stub is a 50 ohm point where the coaxial cable feed line attaches. Note that the U shaped stub does not radiate... only the

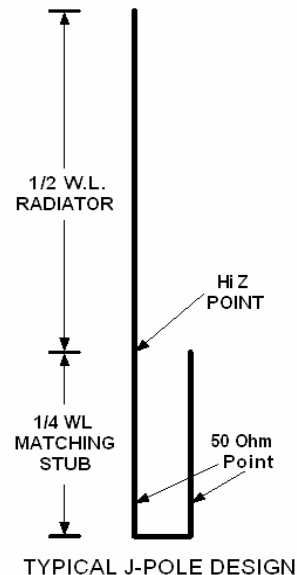


Diagram 1

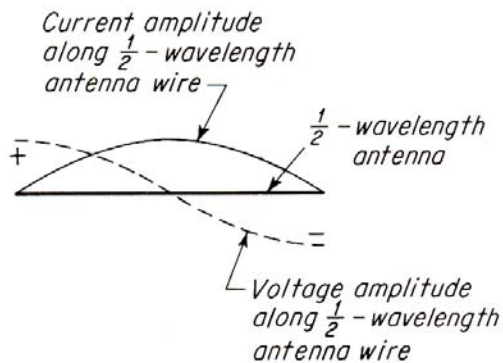
half wave section does the radiating. I could build a 10 meter J-Pole... but the half wave radiator of 16.5 ft. plus the U shaped stub of 8.5 ft. would be more than 23 feet high... and that would be difficult to support atop my garage without guy wires. So my idea is to design a matching stub device that matches the 50 ohm feed line from the rig to the Hi Z end of the half wave 10 meter radia-

Continued on Page 5, Col 1

## 10 Meter Antenna article...

tor.

Joe will attest that the following figure shows how the end of the half wave radiator is high impedance. Notice that the voltage is maximum and the current is lowest at the end of the radiator. Using Ohm's law... Resistance (or Impedance) is equal to the high voltage (E) divided by the low current (I)... which will



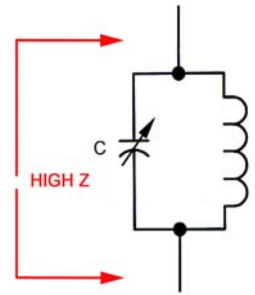
**Diagram 2 shows Current VS Voltage along a 1/2 wavelength radiator. There is always high voltage at the end of the antenna.**

be a high number.

Ever notice that gizmo at the base of your 1/2 wave or 5/8 wave two meter mobile antenna? It's a cylinder about 2 to 3 inches tall and about an inch round. Within that gizmo is the 50 ohm to Hi Z matching device. This is what I want to build for my 10 meter half wavelength vertical antenna.

I read about RF tuned circuits in the ARRL radio handbook. I found that parallel tuned circuits are very high Z at resonance (where the inductive reactance equals the capacitive reactance) across the circuit.

This type of tuned circuit consists of a capacitor in parallel with an inductor. (Diagram 3) I wanted my circuit to be resonant at approx 28.200 MHz, between the CW practice frequency and the Sunday night net frequency,



**Diagram 3: A circuit like this that is tuned for resonance on the desired frequency will always be hi Z and have a high voltage**

28.150 and 28.375 respectively.

The search was on to find an inductor (L) and capacitor (C) combination that is resonant at 28.200 MHz.. I found some 3/4 inch diameter coil stock and some variable capacitors in my junk box and built a circuit like shown. To measure the resonant frequency of the L-C combination... I used my MFJ-269 antenna analyzer with a three turn coil of wire plugged into the antenna jack. By placing the MFJ-269's coil next to the tuned circuit and tuning the analyzer... I found a dip in SWR reading at 24 MHz. Note: This method works like the Grid Dip Oscillator of vacuum tube days of past.

I found that if I reduced the value of C... then the frequency would go upwards. I connected the two variable capacitors in series to lower the C value. By adjusting the two caps while the antenna analyzer was set to the desired frequency... I located the dip at 28.200.

The ARRL handbook also says that I can find the 50 ohm point on the inductor coil by placing a tap somewhere along the length of the coil and the bottom of the coil. Note: this is similar to finding the 50 ohm point on the 1/4 wavelength U shaped tuning stub on the J-pole antenna.

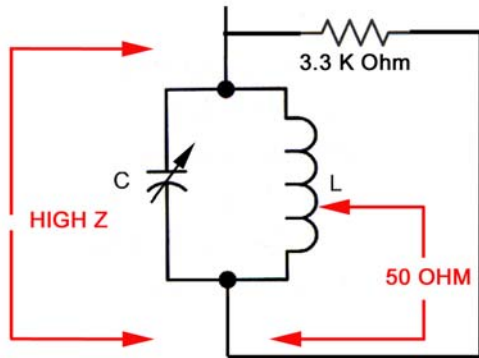
Once the Inductor and Capacitor were at the desired resonant frequency... I placed the tuned circuit into an old surplus plastic enclosure. I installed a PL-259 coax jack at the

**Continued on Page 6, Col 1**

### 10 Meter Antenna article...

bottom of the box to attach the feed line to the shack...and an aluminum stand-off stud on the top of the box to attach the half wave-length radiator.

To find the 50 ohm point on the inductor coil... I connected a substitute hi Z antenna (a resistor) to the combination of L and C to take the place of the half wave radiator. By guessing... I chose a 3.3 K ohm resistor to take the place of the radiator. Why 3.3 K ohms? Well, I remembered that my Icom automatic antenna tuner will match a Z of 5 to 5 K ohms. The closest resistor I had was



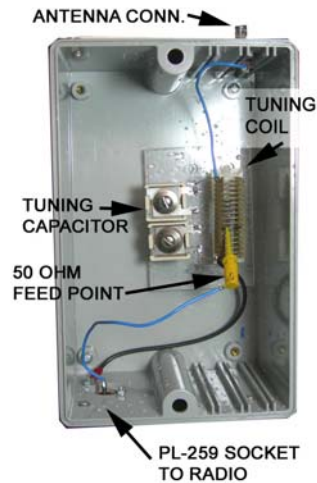
**Diagram 4: Schematic diagram showing how the 3.3 K resistor substitutes for the antenna wire. Also the possible location of the 50 ohm point that the coax feed line connects**

3.3K Ohms. (Diagram 4).

I then connected the antenna analyzer set at 28.200 MHz to the PL-259 jack. By moving the clip lead up and down the inductor coil... I found the coil's 50 Ohm location that gave me a very low SWR.

Because of the HI Z and high voltage across the parallel tuned circuit...I thought that the small variable trimmer capacitors would arc across which would cause very high SWR and perhaps damage my transmitter. I learned by reading... a piece of coaxial cable with an open end is a capacitor. I also realized that coax cable can handle the everyday high voltage of standing waves (VSWR) in a feed line.

So to make an equivalent value capacitor from coax cable... I needed to find the value of



**Photo 5: The inside of the enclosure reveals the variable tuning caps and the coil. The yellow alligator clip is moved up and down the coil to achieve the best SWR.**



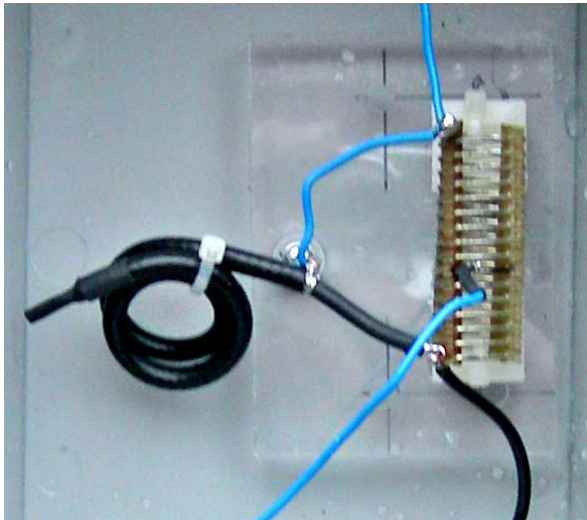
**Photo 6 shows the L-C meter and the coax capacitor connected. The L-C meter outputs the value in Morse Code.**

Continued on Page 7, Col 1



### 10 Meter Antenna article...

the variable capacitors in the tuned circuit. I carefully removed the two variable trimmer caps from the tuned circuit and measured them with my **ELSIE-2 L-C** meter and came up with 24 pico-farads (PF). Then I prepared an 18 inch piece of RG-58 coax and connected it to the **L-C** meter. (Photo 6) I measure 88 PF. Reducing the length of the coax reduced the value of capacitance. So, trimming a small bit of coax off and re-measuring finally got it down to 24 PF, which was about 7 inches long. The coaxial capacitor was rolled up and cable tied to fit in the enclosure in



**Photo 7 shows the final installation of the coaxial capacitor, the 50 ohm impedance tap on the coil, and the connection to the radiator wire (top of coil).**

place of the trimmer capacitors. (Photo 7)  
**It all comes together...**

The radiating element, a piece of # 12 stranded wire, calculated to be about 17 ft long. To support the wire vertically... I taped it to a 20 ft long collapsible fishing pole (left over from another project). I built a small wooden support from scrap lumber that supports the fishing pole vertically (radiator hose type clamps) and provides a place for weights (two cinder blocks) to keep the whole thing on the flat roof of my garage. The plastic box that holds the parallel tuned circuit was screwed to the wooden stand. The coax enters

the box via the PL-259 socket on the bottom and the #12 wire enters the box on top via an aluminum stand off.

### Tuning it up:

I set up the whole assembled unit on the picnic table in my back yard and plugged in my antenna analyzer. The best SWR was at 29 MHz. Remembering "Lower is Longer" from the technician class... I needed to make the wire element longer in order to lower the frequency.. So, I added about 24 inches more wire that took me to the best SWR at 27 MHz. Carefully cutting an inch at a time and retesting brought the length of the vertical wire to 17 ft 4 in and I had a SWR of 1.1 to 1 at 28.200 MHz. I had good SWR of 1.4 from 28.000 to



**Photo 8 Final assembly: Plastic enclosure connected to wooden stand and fiberglass fishing pole connected to stand.**

29.000 MHz.

After placing the antenna assembly at the desired location on the garage roof... I measured a poor SWR of worse than 3.0 to 1. Some experimentation determined that I located the antenna too close to some metal flashing and the phone line to our house. By

**Continued on Page 8, Col 1**

moving the antenna assembly towards the rear of the roof the original good readings were achieved.

### Testing:

In the shack... I connected my rig to the new antenna. At my desired frequencies of 28.150 and 28.375 MHz, using 50 watts output... I measured SWR or around 1.25 (or less) to 1. At 28.001 to 29.000 MHz I read about 1.4. At 29.699 (the end of the band) the SWR was over 2.5... but my radios internal tuner adjust it down to 1.0

On the 2 meter repeater I asked for others to listen for me at 28.150 MHz, take a reading on the original multi band dipole and then take a reading on the new vertical. Three folks rated the vertical as stronger... with the best difference of 1 S-unit, which equates to twice the power received (3 dB). I suspect the higher readings with the new vertical antenna are not because of vertical VS horizontal polarization... but because the multi-band dipole (with tuner) is like the Swiss Army Knife of antennas... where it does a lot of functions (multiple bands) OK... and the vertical antenna is self resonant and more efficient for this purpose.

### Conclusion:

If you choose to build a 10 meter vertical antenna like this one... please know that it does NOT have to be exactly the same. A 17 ft wire hanging from a tree or other high object will substitute for the fishing pole I used. The coax cable matching unit could be built in a small Tupperware like container. A Toroid inductor or a coil of wire wound on an discarded pill bottle would make a nice tuning coil. There are lots of possibilities and a lot of information in books and on the web at your disposal. Also, please don't forget there is a wealth of knowledge at your radio club's gathering spot: The Clubhouse or the 2 meter repeater. So, Joe... be safe in that tree or atop that ladder and thanks for reading this far. - 30- Rich Kr7w.



**Club Secretary Larry KD4VOM, gets an attaboy from Prez Mick.**



**The Budman K7BUD shows up and gets a hug from Jill as Mick and Frank look on enviously.**



**Carnauba! No, Turtle!**

**Frank AC7JY and Bob KE7DGQ debate the merits of various waxes...**



## Repeaters In Our Vicinity

Courtesy of WWARA Repeater Directory

FREQ MHz	PL TONE Hz	LOCATION/ALTITUDE	CALL	REPEATER OWNER
53.101	100.0	University Place / 320 ft	K7NP	University Place Repeater Group
53.030	100	North Mountain / 3040 ft	K7CH	Carl Holman
53.230	103.5	Olalla / 535 ft	WR7HE	Herman Entz
53.470	100	Capitol Peak / 2681 ft	WR7JM	Jon Marcinko
145.290	114.8	University Place / 315ft	K7NP	University Place Repeater Group
145.350	103.5	Olalla / 535 ft	W7ZLJ	K7PAG & K7TGJ
147.280	103.5	Tacoma / 471 ft	W7DK	Radio Club of Tacoma
147.360	103.5	Olympia / 250 ft	NT7H	Olympia OARS ***
147.380	103.5	Crawford Mountain / 1470 ft	W7DK	Radio Club of Tacoma
224.460	103.5	Crawford Mountain / 1470 ft	NT7H	Olympia OARS ***
421.250		Federal Way / 590 ft	WA7FW	Federal Way ARC
440.225	103.5	Olalla / 535 ft	WR7HE	Herman Entz
440.625	103.5	Tacoma / 451 ft	W7DK	Radio Club of Tacoma
440.650	100	North Mountain / 3060 ft	K7CH	Carl Holman
441.400	103.5	Crawford Mountain/ 1470 ft	NT7H	Olympia OARS ***
442.375	103.5	University Place / 320 ft	K7NP	University Place Repeater Group
NOTE: *** these repeaters are linked together. Talk on one and retransmits on all three.				



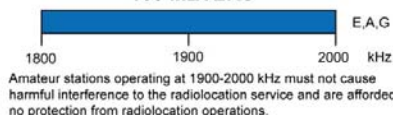
Above left, we see Pat KD7TRC getting a well deserved thanks from Mick KK7QS for a job well done as the RCT Treasurer for the last year. On the right Jill, K7JIL also gets an atta(gal) for services rendered during the previous year as the RCT vice president.

## US Amateur Bands

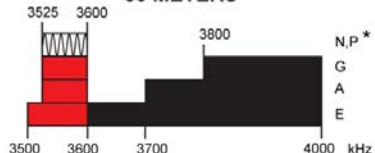
**ARRL** The national association for  
AMATEUR RADIO

Effective Date December 15, 2006

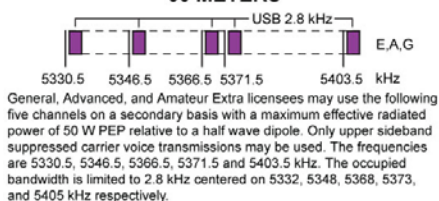
## 160 METERS



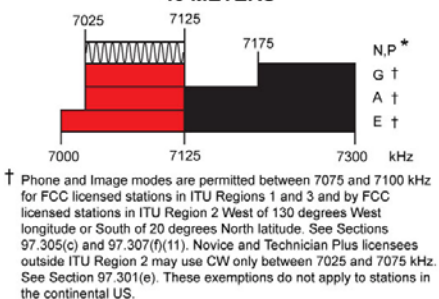
## 80 METERS



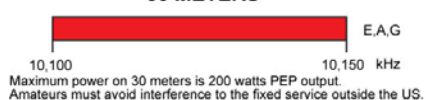
## 60 METERS



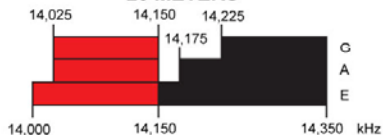
## 40 METERS



## 30 METERS



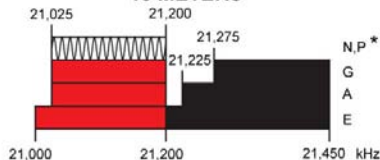
## 20 METERS



## 17 METERS



## 15 METERS



## 12 METERS



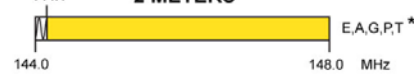
## 10 METERS



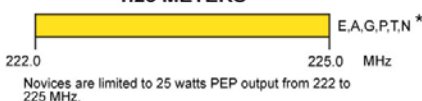
## 6 METERS



## 2 METERS



## 1.25 METERS \*\*\*



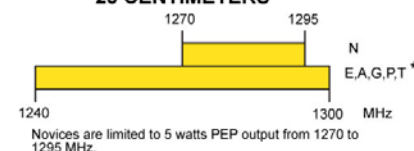
## 70 CENTIMETERS \*\*



## 33 CENTIMETERS \*\*



## 23 CENTIMETERS \*\*



## US AMATEUR POWER LIMITS

At all times, transmitter power should be kept down to that necessary to carry out the desired communications.

Power is rated in watts PEP output. Unless otherwise stated, the maximum power output is 1500 W.

Power for all license classes is limited to 200 W in the 10,100-10,150 kHz band. Novices and Technicians are restricted to 200 W below 28.5 MHz.

In addition, Novices are restricted to 25 W in the 222-225 MHz band and 5 W in the 1270-1295 MHz subband.

## KEY

- = CW, RTTY and data
- = CW, RTTY, data, MCW, test, phone and image
- = CW, phone and image
- = CW and SSB phone
- = CW, RTTY, data, phone, and image
- = CW only
- = USB Phone only

E = AMATEUR EXTRA  
A = ADVANCED  
G = GENERAL  
P = TECHNICIAN PLUS  
T = TECHNICIAN  
N = NOVICE

\*Technicians who have passed the 5 wpm Morse code exam are indicated as "P".

\*\*Geographical and power restrictions apply to all bands with frequencies above 420 MHz. See *The ARRL FCC Rule Book* for more information about your area.

\*\*\*219-220 MHz allocated to amateurs on a secondary basis for fixed digital message forwarding systems only and can be operated by all licensees except Novices.

All licensees except Novices are authorized all modes on the following frequencies:

2300-2310 MHz  
2390-2450 MHz  
3300-3500 MHz  
5650-5925 MHz  
10.0-10.5 GHz  
24.0-24.25 GHz  
47.0-47.2 GHz  
76.0-81.0 GHz  
122.25-123.0 GHz  
134-141 GHz  
241-250 GHz  
All above 275 GHz



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newham@arrl.org  
vec@arrl.org

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### **THE BARK: WE GET LETTERS!!**

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Dear W7DK,

I want to thank Nick Winter, K7MO and the club for the CW contact on your 90th Anniversary. It brings back old times memories for me from the late nineteen sixties when I was a member of W7DK.

I enjoyed the homecoming dinner on Saturday and seeing many of my old friends.

Omar Spaulding, kw7os

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Dear Bark Readers...

Today while at the Saturday clubhouse gathering... I received my nicely done certificate for participating in the W7DK/90 Special Event Station. This certificate commemorated our radio club's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last October. I also received a very nice QSL card for making contact with W7DK/90 from my home station.

I want to use this forum in the Logger's Bark to thank Peter Baker, AD7EU, for taking the initiative to organize and promote the W7DK/90 station operation. I am sure that many hours of Peter's time went into this project. There was a large payoff for members who spent time behind the microphone and telegraph key making contact with hundreds of hams across America who had read about the anniversary station in QST and the ARRL Letter. The operating event attracted new and seasoned club members to participate... and the ones I talked with said they had a great time making contacts.

At first I had no intention of operating the anniversary station... but on the second day I was installing the boom mic and sat down to test it by calling CQ. I was surprised at the turnout of hams from all over America and Canada wanting to make contact. I had a "run" of about 40 or so contacts who wished W7DK a happy birthday. What fun it turned out to be.

I know that there are a couple of hundred QSL cards and certificates to send out... and Peter is doing this all himself.

I wish that there was a special award to commemorate Peter's effort... but since there isn't... here's my **"Hats off to you Peter for an outstanding job"**.

Sincerely,

Rich Patrick, KR7W



**Happy Birthday****December**

Day	Name	Call	RCT Number
3	Duane Roundy	KE7GNY	2288
3	Hal Stahlhut	W7EC	673
4	Joseph Douglas	KC7FF	2064
6	Frank Palmer	AC7JY	1992
14	William Drum	KJ7KT	1213
15	Jack Moore	WA7ENB	729
16	James Swanson	KD7TJE	2155
16	Ken Scott	KB7UXT	1603
16	Rob Stewart	WB7QCS	1181
18	Douglas Smith	W7ZZ	768
19	Dee Patton	KE7BBZ	2315
20	Sandy Newhouse	KD7HYT	2060
21	Randy Myers	WB4SPB	2050
28	Bill Rohrer	W7IJ	381
28	Chuck Souter	KA7HJN	1924
30	Wil Crockett	KE7EMU	2268



**Commander Bob gets the secret hand shake from outgoing Prez Mick.**





# Ask Radioman

Answers to your questions  
pertaining to Amateur Radio and  
Amateur Radio operation

Send your questions to: [radioman@w7dk.org](mailto:radioman@w7dk.org)

## **Dear Radioman...**

I plan to become a General Class operator when the recently FCC proclaimed rules of "no code needed" take effect sometime in February.

Even though I don't know Morse Code, it looks like I will be able to operate CW on the entire 160 meter band, from 3.525 to 3.600 MHz, from 7.025 to 7.125 MHz, and my favorite band of 20 meters from 14.025 to 14.150. I understand that the DX stations are on the 20 meter CW band. All of this is per the latest Band Plan the ARRL has just published.

My question is this: Is it legal for me to operate CW even though I don't know Morse code?

Thanks in advance,  
K \*7\*\*\* (Name and call withheld at request of submitter)

Radioman answers this: Yes, it appears legal for you to operate CW on the above mentioned frequencies. It is a weird and unfortunate loophole in the rules

As you (I hope) know... you must identify your station with your call sign every 10 minutes and at the end of a transmission. Let's say that you are operating CW on 7.030 MHz and it is time for you to identify yourself. You can not use Single Sideband or any of the voice modes to do so because the rules say it is not permitted on that frequency. The only way to ID yourself is to use a digital mode. You could use PSK-31, RTTY, or some other digital mode... even Morse code... but remember that you **MUST** ID yourself properly and intelligibly.

Radioman guesses that you could use a computer or electronic keyer to ID yourself... but if you can not copy Morse code, then that means that you can't be in a QSO with anyone. One way transmissions or broadcasting is not allowed unless it is for educational or emergency purposes.

Radioman requests, from the bottom of his cold and hardened heart, that you please, please, please stay out of the CW part of the band. Please do not interfere with the Morse operators who enjoy the CW mode part of the hobby. Think about PSK-31, which is pretty easy to get into. Get yourself a book on it, practice into a dummy load at first, and type your heart out. It's a great mode to operate.

## **Dear Radioman,**

I just received my Technician license and want to get on two meters to make some contacts. I can only afford one radio right now. Should I start with a handy-talkie or a mobile radio? They cost about the same... so I am not sure what to do. Please help.

Jimmy (Call sign withheld)

Dear new ham operator,

Even though a few Technician operators use SSB and CW, the weak signal modes on two meters, I am going to assume that you plan to use FM to operate into repeaters for contacts or IRLP or for simplex use. Radioman thinks the kind of radio for you depends on how and where you mostly plan to use it.



If you plan to operate mostly in your automobile... of course I suggest a mobile type radio. With the mobile radio properly installed can provide a nice way to make contacts while spending time in your car or truck. Having the microphone close by to use will be safe and convenient. Using handy-talkies in a car can be cumbersome with cigarette lighter power supply power cords and external mag-mount antenna cables connecting to it. One could get pretty tangled up in those cables while driving. Using a HT while driving is more distracting than a cell phone, in Radioman's opinion. So, if you plan to be mobile most of the time, then I suggest a properly installed two meter FM transceiver for your car. Note: Properly installed will be a whole Radioman column in the future.

Mobile radios can be set up as a base station in your home. If you do this then you will need an external power supply with enough capacity to operate the radio at the desired power output. Also an outside antenna is recommended because an indoor antenna with a higher powered mobile radio can cause RF feedback problems.

If you plan to operate from your home... and are not too far from the local repeater you plan to use... then a handy talkie with a rechargeable battery would work well for you. Please remember that the rubber duckie antenna on an HT is a poor radiator, so being close to the repeater is a good thing. If you are too far away, your transmissions will be scratchy into the repeater and scratchy out of the repeater for all to hear. This gets very annoying for the regular listeners of the repeater. It is possible to a mobile antenna with some gain with your HT from home, say placed in a window or on the roof to make your signal more readable.

Radioman thinks that being able to grab your HT when you are going out and about is a plus. A walk in the park or a ride on your bike with your HT on your belt lets you keep in touch with the friends you'll make on your local repeater. There are speaker-mics that you can clip to your lapel for good receive audio as well as having the microphone close by.

If you choose an HT for your first radio, then Radioman recommends one with a Lithium-Ion battery. They keep their charge longer than Ni-cad or NIMH batteries. Most HTs have L-I batteries now a days. If you plan to add HTs to your collection, Radioman suggests that you choose radios that can share the same batteries. Consider two HTs and three batteries with a charging station. You just might be glad you had an extra battery when the power is out for a long time.

Radioman suggests that you do your homework before choosing. Check the reviews on [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net). Most review are useful, but be prepared for some crackpots who are just venting. You'll see what I mean. Good luck.

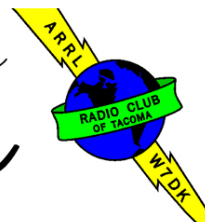
Have trust in Radioman, a FCC licensed radio professional. Email your ham radio related questions to: [radioman@w7dk.org](mailto:radioman@w7dk.org) Until next month...



**Looking Good Rick! Rick, KE7EMW again set the fashion bar high as he models the latest in Italian apron fashion!**



## The Radio Club of Tacoma's *Logger's Bark*



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Treasurer: POSITION TO BE FILLED- email PRES for info

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**ADVERTISE in the BARK:** \$60.00 full page, \$30.00 half page, \$15.00 quarter page, \$5.00 business card size. These charges offset the publishing and USPS mailing costs.

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**Membership Info:** FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

## Radio Club Repeaters

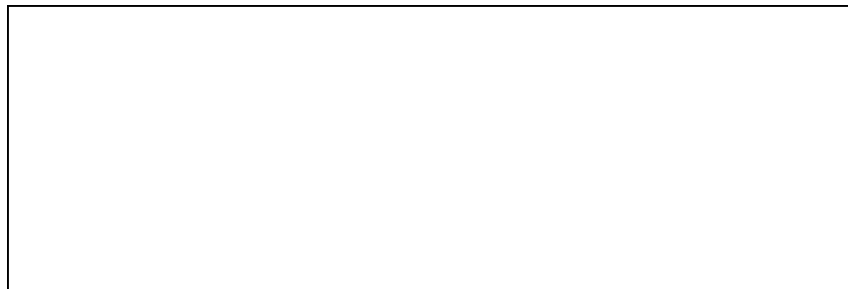
Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5      Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

***THE LOGGER'S BARK***  
Radio Club of Tacoma, Inc.  
P.O. Box 11188  
Tacoma, WA 98411

**TO RCT MEMBER:**



# JANUARY 2007 EVENTS

**Club Meetings:** Wednesdays January 10th and 24th at the library Administration building at 7:30 pm, 112th & Waller road. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Board Meeting,** Wednesday January 3rd 7:30 p.m. Clubhouse - All members welcome

**License Testing** - Tuesday, January 9th 7:00PM at the RCT clubhouse.

**BARK deadline Saturday January 27th 2007-** PLEASE get articles, columns, etc. in by that time!

- Support OUR club - Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer.
- Check in to the 2-meter Net every Tuesday night at 7:30, on 147.28. Hear additional information on programs and other events.
- Check in on the 10 Meter Net every Sunday evening, 8 PM, on 28.375 MHz USB